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Firm Name	LAW OFFICE OF ALAN W. CANNON		
Signature			
Printed name	ALAN W. CANNON		
Date	1/19/05	Reg. No.	34,977

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

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Typed or printed name	MARIA J. SOUSA	Date	1/19/2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Typed or Printed Name	Maria J. Sousa		
Signature	<i>Maria J. Sousa</i>	Date	1/19/2005

<b>AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116</b>  Address to: Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	GUID-012CON 5237
	First Named Inventor	Hu et al.
	Application Number	09/900,503
	Filing Date	07/06/2001
	Group Art Unit	3625
	Examiner Name	Smith, Jeffrey A.
	Title	Surgical Retractor Platform Blade Apparatus

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated October 19, 2004 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before January 19, 2005. This response is being filed pursuant to an Advisory Action mailed January 6, 2005. In view of the cancellation of non-allowed claims below, without prejudice, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the amendments set forth below raise no new issues. Rather, the amendments place the claims in form for allowance or in better form for appeal. Entry of these amendments is thus respectfully requested.